

**SAISD Restructuring Meeting
Sam Houston High School
September 2, 2009**

6:10 p.m. - Welcome by Darnell White, Principal of Sam Houston High School – Greetings Welcome to Sam Houston, The Pride of the East Side

Mr. Carlos Villarreal – President of the School Board – Moment of Silence

Thank you for being here. We are moving closer to having a plan to better meet the needs of our students. Thank you community for being here this evening.

Mr. James Howard - Opening statement / Recognized Committee

Good Evening everyone. This is a positive, beautiful occasion; for the community to come out to support this effort because your children and our district needs your support. We are redesigning the district. It's something we have to do. We know that these recommendations are not popular. This is a basis to build from. No one on this committee wants to close schools, but we have to do something. We need to take a positive effort toward this. This is an emotional and controversial decision. I have deep roots in Sam Houston High School. My son graduated from here. I have a grandson that's a junior in this high school. Be respectful in your expressions. We are more than open to sit down with you to discuss questions you might have. This is your opportunity to speak. No one here wants to close Sam Houston. We need to build this school's attendance up. This school has been a staple in maintaining pride in this community. I stand with you. This committee takes serious notes about what you say this evening. I'm sure after all has been said and done we can reach a common ground.

Our purpose for restructuring our district is to provide an education that prepares our students for success. The committee worked hard. The three proposals reflect the amount of time they took. This is the opportunity for you to provide us with constructive input about what you like or don't like regarding the three restructuring proposals. You, the community at large, have a big stake in this decision. The Board will finalize the plan by late September or early October.

Dr. Durón

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I was told earlier that there might be a big crowd. We are happy that there is a big crowd tonight. We would be concerned if there wouldn't be. This says you care. There are more that wish they could be here but can't. Why do we want to close schools? We do not want to close schools. Why do we want to restructure? The answer is we don't want to but as we look at the future we look this as a way to improve our schools.

I'm going to suggest 5 things...

1. We want our community to strengthen
2. We want a quality education for our students
3. We all agree that we must be as efficient as possible
4. Our school district has to improve and in order to improve we're going to have to change
5. Our students deserve the facilities and programs that all students are provided

I made the mistake that we could do things quickly but I've change that. I realize that I need to get community input. Now we are getting community input.

At this school we have 6-7 extra teachers; even if the numbers are low. The School Board is supporting them; they say we can not cut them.

We need your thoughtful suggestions. Restructuring means difficult and painful choices. It's important for all of us to keep our eyes on the prize. When your heart is in the right place it's about the kids.

As I have already told you, closing Sam Houston is not a done deal. Tonight we want to hear a better option. I appreciate your passion. I appreciate each and every one of you this evening.

Sandra Ojeda Medina – Reviewed the process that the committee used to develop the plans.

Ben Garcia - Phase 3 – Reviewed Boundary Development

Dr. Priscilla Canales – Overview of the 3 Proposals

7:15 Roz – Gave directions to the speakers

State your name

State which proposal you like

State what you like about the proposal

State revision suggestions

Each speaker has 3 minutes

Comments should be relevant and about proposals

If you have to leave we want to invite you tomorrow night or to one of our other meetings

7:20 p.m. Speakers

Speaker 1: Ms. Lillie Harris

Proposal

Ms. Harris – I'm appalled that the closure of Sam Houston is on all 3 proposals

Don't close any schools- you will be killing and closing our community

Don't let anyone rob us of what we deserve

I will say it again racism is alive and well...our children are being robbed...

You are, every one of you are putting a nail in the coffin

You need to stop the murderers

It's time for a change and you need to start from the top... (Cheering)

The bus driver was rude. Why are you busing our students from Miller to Carvajal?

Why are you taking the children from one side of town to another?

We're paying taxes, you've talked over 2 hours and now you want me to do this in three minutes

I hope each one of you has a restless night

Before second speaker could speak there was repeated chanting..."We are..."

Speaker 2: Tommy Atkinson, County Commissioner

We must tap into the state to help the inner city school district.

Students are not coming to Sam Houston.

60% of Davis MS students said that they are not going to SH. The media focuses only on the negative.

Appoint a working committee to help students in the 7th grade to see the benefits of SH.

We must work together. Keep Sam Houston open

The East Side is due for its place in the sun.... (Cheering from audience)

The city and county will march down with you to achieve the renaissance that is long overdue in the East side of San Antonio

The fact of the matter is, there are some in the legislature that don't believe in education

Let's work with Joe Farias to get the proper funding for Sam Houston

I stood across the street with James Howard

The kids from Davis don't have the confidence to come to Sam Houston

Let's work with alumnus, community, churches

Tell them the good story so that when they are marching they will say I'm going to Sam Houston

It wasn't that long ago that we worked to pass the school bond

These investments must be valued

We need to recapture the property values of our homes in our community

SH has a future, we have a plan, lets work together to make it happen (cheering)

Speaker 3: Ivy Taylor, City Councilwoman

District 2 Representative – Your representative of this district

I am energized to see my community out here tonight

I'm so glad that you are here for your voice to be heard

While I recognize tremendous challenges, I have to make it clear that it is unacceptable to close our east side school. So right now we have a lot of opportunities. I'm working hard to market our area to get families to move here.

If we close this school it will hinder our community.

We need to address the fact that our children don't deserve this

We need to get to school on time; not take a bus

Let's look at the underperformance issues; I pledge to do my part

I'm also willing to work with a group to boost the enrollment of our school

I don't like any of the plans; my constituents don't like any of the plans

I do hope that the board works hard go back to the drawing board so that SH does not close

Speaker 4: Willie Marcus Adams

A former employee of SAISD

I want to ask Dr. Duron, "Why do you have to go outside the area to find Principals?"

I find it demeaning that no one from within SAISD was hired as Principal of Sam Houston

Dr. Duron Responds...

I am accountable for the Principals that the district hires...

Speaker 5: Gilberto B. Lopez

Proposal

I came to SAISD in 1975. My HS in San Juan closed. We created a club and meet every year. You can do the same thing here.

Audience is booing... _____ speaks and saysPlease calm down...please...I came here in 1970 (booed)...I love the memory of Sam Houston High School (booed)

Speaker 6: Ms. Odelia Cantu

Proposal

I'm here to say that none of the plans apply to me

If they want to close the schools on the East Side...they're going to have to answer to us
What are we gonna do when Dr. Duron will be gone
You just want to shut down the East Side...and that's exactly what you are doing...
I always tell you friendship is friendship and business is business

Speaker 7: Sherry Logan

Educator for 35 years...I am proud of the East Side. (Spoke to the crowd) Thank you for the change with the new Principal. We need your support. We want to see you at the football games. We want to see you join the PTA; only 7 people have joined the PTA today. All of you need to join. SH need you not just tonight. Houston we have a problem with cable and students that do not have internet. I have loved Sam Houston and I continue to love the SH community. I need to tell you, we need your support in tutoring. How do you have cable? The majority of you have cable yet only ¼ of our students have internet. Houston we have a problem and we need to work on that. Before you go to bed tonight ask yourself where have I been?

Speaker 8: Sheila McNeil

I'm a proud Cherokee tonight. My position is that we should not close any schools. While we are here tonight, tomorrow the city council will be talking about putting a correctional facility in District 2. We need to show up downtown. What we are telling our children is, we are closing your school but we are opening a prison.

Speaker 9: Joyce McCullen

God will not change the condition of the people until he knows what's in your heart. I'm on the committee and I'm so disappointed. When I first got to the committee SH was in the plan but then you cut SH out. Why? I like you Dr. Durón but I don't like your work ethics. You talk about programs. When are you going to bring them over here? This school was an all-white school when I came here. Mr. Howard you can not wear both hats. (*Loud cheering*) You sit in the ivory white tower. You started off good, but I see a change in you brother...

Speaker 10: Bertha Franklin

We don't support plan 1, plan 2 or plan 3. We believe that if our schools are closed our neighborhood will die. We want you to know that the Neighborhood Alliance has been supporting the community and will continue to support the community. We can not revitalize the community if our students are moved from one neighborhood to another. We are concerned. We do not support Plan 1, Plan 2 or Plan 3

Speaker 11: Rev. Julius Shepherd

I am Pastor of Missionary Baptist Church. I am a product of the East Side. The committee has not representation from the East Side. As a parent and as a loving caring man of God, I don't stand before you ignorant of the fact that change is needed. I do stand here in complete opposition of a committee that has not representation of us. We have to recognize and let the powers that be. Who looks like us in that committee?

Speaker 12: Ruth Jones McClendon, State Representative

I don't like Plan 1, Plan 2, or Plan 3. How many parents from the East Side schools are in this committee? One? I'm standing here kind of having an out of body experience. Lord, please don't put a nail in the coffin of the East Side. I don't understand what the problem is. People say that the deal is already done. I hope not. I hope that they are going to listen to all our voices. I hope that the deal is not already done. There is KIPP Academy and they are trained to deal with our children and they train

them and prepare them for college. 90% of those children go to college. Why can't we bring a KIPP to this community? Give us a fighting chance and let's stop the bleeding.

Speaker 13: Nettie Hinton

I'm here representing the NAACP. So I get more than 3 minutes. None of the 3 options are acceptable. The NAACP considers them all none starters. So how do we overcome the decisions of the NAACP? You wrote that the closure is appropriate because of the severe low enrollments. We in NAACP believe that in the light of the state's review you are taking the easy way out. BUT it is the district's failure to motivate our children. SH is in great physical condition. Trust me, buildings have not failed our students, buildings don't educate our students. People educated children. Unless the systemic problem in our district is corrected a brand new building on another part of the city will not help; and tax payers will be cheated again. Please respond in writing to the NAACP. Why are buses and charter schools picking up our students and taking them to other sides of the city please respond in writing. Keep Sam Houston High School open. Reorganize it, open it as a Magnet school, make certain that the students that are graduating in those schools come to the new Sam Houston. I suggested this model to Mr. Howard. I'm here to tell you that the Brack area will be redeveloped... (She talked about all that is offered in the Brack community) The closing of SH will hammer the nail in the coffin. No family relocates to a community that does not have a convenient high school. We are in the 21st Century. Step up and be a part of it. Our students deserve better.

Speaker 14: Mario Salas

Ms. Salas is a former council member. How is this school board going to cooperate to keep people from leaving this community? So Dr. Duron you get an F. Where is the mayor? Where is Julian Castro? Should he be sitting up here? You can not close a single school in this district. I agree with what everyone says. All 3 plans are not good but plan 3 is the worst. This is not rocket science. You guys ought to be working together to stop the bleeding. How do we stop the bleeding if you come up with a plan that totally disregards these tax payers' money. When are you going to call for help? If you guys adopt plan 3 your name Dr. Duron your will become Count Dracula and the Committee as the dancers in thriller. You talk about cost analysis. If you are diabetic you don't cut diabetic meds. This is the worst School Board, the worst Superintendent in history if you close Sam Houston. We have to save all the schools in the inner city. We need to have real houses over here. In conclusion, we have low performing schools because we have a TAKS test that's not worth a dime. Instead of sending our kids to juvenile because they miss school we need to send them like the North Side does. I don't support any of the proposals.

Speaker 15: Cheryl Barnett

Alumni, 1977 graduate and former teacher in SAISD

I don't agree with any of the three proposals. They'll have to take me along with the building. Mr. Howard, how dare you sit here with this proposal on the table. I challenge you to bring tutorials to this school that will make a difference. I will come out of retirement to help. We shall prevail.

Speaker 16: 2002 Graduate

I am too emotional to speak. I also went to Highlands and Roosevelt. I remember that the teachers here encouraged me to come to school. It hurts my feelings that you want to close a part of me that helped me. They made me. I was accepted into 8 colleges. They need more teachers that care like the teachers here.

Speaker 17: Ruth Harper 1993 Graduate

I don't appreciate what I hear. You all are going to take them to Wagner. It ain't no better over there

than here. I'm a veteran. These students here deserve a better education. There are a bunch of people here to tell you, I don't care if I have to stand here all day.

Speaker 18: Garnett ???

I have 2 sons that graduated from SH. I'm very concerned about this school closing. It's not like I'm not in touch with this school. I understand that what you are trying to do. You're trying to do what's best for the district; but I'm against closing any schools. I'm trying to figure this thing out. I want to know about the boundary lines. I smell a rat! I smell a big rat and I smell a big political rat. I smell a rat something told something this is not fair I don't like it. Try to be fair about what you are doing. Don't close Sam Houston. I'm plain against this. Please try to work it out

Speaker 19: Azalea Gallon

I hear you saying that enrollment is declining. It's your fault because you sent them to another school. It's your fault you all send us to another side and we're just running our mouth. You all already made your mind up. You're going to do what you want to do. That's not fair. This school means something to us. It don't mean nothing to you because your kids are not here, our kids are here. You have not put any programs here. It's your attitude about Sam Houston.

Speaker 20: Lavern (?)

Welcome to the pride of the East Side. You probably already made up your minds. We don't have computers, we don't have a track. We don't even have grass on our field.

Speaker 21: 100 Black Men

We have a misguided curriculum. Black and minority students are not enrolled in math and science classes. Teachers are accepting low levels of performance. We will hold the SAISD accountable and responsible. We demand the resignation of the Board and Superintendent. I motion that we demand the resignation of this board... (He read aloud every Board member's name and also Dr. Duron's)

To Audience: Please audience we want to hear every speaker

Speaker 22:

It seems that the implementation of this plan was already a done deal. We're telling you, I'm going to say it again, NO DEAL to proposal 1, 2, and 3. The committee met for 1 day and 1 hour to decide what is done with our school, what has been here for ___ years. I can't believe that's all the time that you took to make a decision for SH. 1 day and 1 hour. Dr. D we will hold you accountable for the failure of these students.

Speaker 23: John

What you're doing is having bad communication. You were going to close this school 8 years ago. When you move around, you have to keep adapting, keep adapting. What you're telling our children is that our community is not good enough. You are giving them the message that their school is not good enough. There are going to be a bunch of riots in the future. We have an astronaut that graduated from this school. You have to stop communicating to our kids that they can't do it right here. They can do it right here. You better stop communicating bad stuff about our school. I want to see you at the football game tomorrow.

Speaker 24: Graduate of 2006

Well, I'm 20 and I will be getting a Bachelor's degree next year. I graduated at 15 because of the teachers at this school. You don't bring any programs here, it goes everywhere else. The goal is to keep

SH open. I don't want Plan 1, 2, or 3. Our mentors at SH keep it real. Do the teachers at Wagner know us? I can go to my mentor here and ask them for 25 cents for the bus. We can't do that at Wagner

Speaker 25: Graduate of 77

Let's be honest. They've made their mind up what they're going to do. What are we going to do? We've got to raise hell. I've passed by schools that scare me. These are high schools 3 stories high. This is my home. Why is that way over there? They have this and that and over here we don't have anything. You want to do this and that but there are people that put their blood into this. What about us? What's the deal? Why must the East Side be excluded? Why are you putting the East Side down? Give us an answer, we deserve an answer. Do something that makes us happy. We deserve it. We are tax payers. We have rights. Look at what you did over at Roosevelt.

Speaker 26: Graduate 2003

SH is a family. You see us all here. You know we care. What are these neighborhoods going to do without a school? Understand that everybody ain't Anglo. I am planning on giving back. What are ya'll planning on giving back? You ain't giving back nothing. Do you see the kids over there? (Pointing to students in the auditorium) I ain't into politics, but what I see here gives me a head-ache. 1 day and 1 hour...you're going to make this decision that fast.

Speaker 27: Randy Robles, League for Public School Justice (LFPSJ)

I want you to know that they have never shown this slide without a middle school on the East Side. They did not show this at the other meetings. Why did they not show it there? Horace Mann said that with fewer schools you will have more kids in jail. Leave all 8 High Schools open. Be honest about what you are doing. We demand Justice. Corrupted dictator; the Superintendent plans to save our district with these 3 plans. The committee members are nothing but puppets. They are pitting one community against another. We demand that you tell the truth. Be honest to the people that pay your taxes. I ask all parents and tax payers, rise up and stand up against these manipulators. If you don't you'll fall for everything. I know that we believe. We the people demand justice.

Speaker 28: Michelle Reyes, LFPSJ

How can you leave this side of town without a High School? At YWHS in 2012 it will have 525 students. Why do they get something special and we have to stuck with 2,000 students. We're not taking it. Has anybody heard that our Superintendent sits in the River Committee of San Antonio? Someone said, close Brack and sell it to developers; and he did not say anything.

I've sat in on the meetings. I know what's going on. I have no reason to believe that the Superintendent is doing anything wrong. Build SH.

Speaker 29: Josette Gonzalez, LFPSJ

I want to keep all high schools open. We come from all districts to unite and fight for our high schools. SAISD intends to increase the population in all schools except for special campuses like YWLA and Early College. Committee members did not look. The Superintendent instructed the board to stay away from the Long-Range Committee. The SAISD wants to close schools before cutting positions.

Speaker 30: Angela Bellinger-Berry, Graduate 1984

We have a family owned moving company. I'm very upset that they want to close SH. I'm so appalled at what this Board wants to do. This school is the root of the community. There's a sense of pride in this community. I hope that you have not made your decision yet and that you keep SH open.

Speaker 31: Catherine Miller

I teach at SAC. I have not been here long enough, but it doesn't take very long to recognize racism. What is the story here? Why are you closing the schools down with large growing communities of blacks and Hispanics? I don't know what a feeder plan or a gap analysis is. San Antonio is on the list of the largest 50. The study says that you need small and medium size schools because you will have better student success. Teach them their history, we need to stand up in unity and fight for what we need

Speaker 32: Alicia Romero, League for Public School Justice

Jefferson HS turned my name in to be on the committee. But no one called me. When students are hand picked (YWLA) they should be exemplary. District has a revolving door of Principals. Why 15 schools? Dr. Duron and others come from places that are not San Antonio. Let me tell you about San Antonio. We will be united as a community and school. I submitted my name to be a part of the committee but I never got a call...SH is not on the table...this is not equity...that is not fairness...excellence in this case is for a few. The girls in our community do not even go to that school. Those girls were hand picked; but all the rest of us are over crowded in tier 2. The Career school is for a few elite kids. That's why League of Public school justice. We are here to stay. That's why we need to unite and take into account what's happening.

Speaker 33:

Before we continue, what do you have to say now? It is very evident to me and the committee that this community is not in favor of closing Sam Houston.

Dr. Duron Addresses Audience:

Out of respect for this man who is waiting, I plan to let everyone of these community members speak.

You've already spoken to 50 people. What do you plan to do?
What do you plan to do?

Speaker 34: Dan Martinez, Chairman of the Eastern Triangle Group

I represent 14 neighborhood associations and this includes Sam Houston. We adopted a plan and after meeting for 2½ years it did not include not having a High School. We are about building a viable community. The Eastern triangle is representing this school. We want to indicate to the board that they, the school Board members are responsible; the Board members, not the committee but the School Board. I know what you can do. It's not the Superintendent, it's you, and (pointing to the Board members) you are responsible.

Speaker 35: Arthur J. Hollis

I'm going to ask all of you at the tables to STAND UP, Stand up. Okay sit down. The reason is out of respect for you because you've been sitting a long time; that's all; (laughs from the audience) I am a professional writer of process. Your process is wrong. SH has a long history; long sentimental attachments, memories are not enough to save schools. SH has a long history. We've slipped and we're sliding down a slippery slope, but what can we do to stop the sliding? Do we need to redefine the pride of the East Side? Do we check report cards? I'm just checking. Maybe check positive attitudes of the East Side? I encourage each of you willing to work, to make academic excellence on the East side. Make school attendance on the East Side. We can not just show up and protest. Participate in a positive way. If they won't let you in, break down the door, take a seat in the decision making table. If you started without me you're going to have to start over. Your proposals (looking at the School Board) are rejected. Now let's restart it and do it right. Let the community decide what grows in the garden...

Speaker 36: Patti Garcia, LFPSJ

I have 2 daughters at Jefferson. Both daughters were born in the East side. I'm from Detroit. I remember the 60's. It's disrespectful. AYP got us into this mess. There are answers besides closing Sam Houston. We need to talk about our kids being in school. My kids have 100% attendance since Kinder.

Speaker 37: Tom Calvert Jr.

I want to ask a question. I'm a business man from this community. How many of you are registered voters. We are here because of failed leadership. I offered to help the school district and they rejected me. We are ready to vote and fight. If you are a registered voter stand up.

We will not be that part of town. I offered to help the school district but they pushed me away. We have to have better leadership. I'm the guy who designed what you got in the mail. We're ready to vote, so let's go fight.

Speaker 38: John Brian

I'm a High school teacher in the west side of town. With all the power point presentations, what have you been reading the past 10 years? I don't think you've been reading anything. We have some unsavory characters here.. Roz, say Hi Roz. She has all white suburban Plano and was hired by SAISD. So why don't any of the members have experience nor teaching?

Conflict of interest...Duron...who are these people? These are the same people who put schools on the chopping block. We're going to fight and we're going to keep on fighting until we get some damn justice....

Speaker 39:

You should be writing down what all these people are saying. Do your job. We don't have faith in our leaders so who are we to follow? I heard that someone took a 3 digit figure when no one below him got a raise. This was the school headlines that March. I want to keep going back to that march. You are the ones giving us a bad name. You're asking us what we want. Do you all's job. You should know what is best for us but apparently you don't right now.

Speaker 40: Wray Hood

Closing the schools is not the answer at all. To close the schools you are saying to parents and community, this makes us think of painters. If a painter doesn't like a piece of art, he might slash it, tear it up, or toss in it in the waste basket. It makes me think of an architect with his critical eye.... (Same analogy as that of the artist) is this the answer? No. Yes we all can become disheartened and into despair sometime. I am reminded of long time ago. The faith of our country is riding tonight (Paul Revere) He begged the people to join him. There were not cars or telephones. The only thing he could do was to ride his horse. Go back to your drawing board. Don't squabble, but forget the past. The answer is among you. Close the schools because you think we have failed? We know you have worked hard. There have been ups and downs. Please go back to your drawing board.

Speaker 41: Maynod Galloway

I grew up in the foster program. I want to encourage the board to revisit the proposals. I also want to say to you that your job is very intense. Please all we're asking for is for you guys to develop solutions that don't involve closing our schools. Dr. Howard you gave me my diploma in my hand. I went to college and have come back and serve my community. Dr. Duron, since the moment you step into your office you've been cool, but do whatever you have to do, but don't make the decision to close of this school.

There is not a mother and fathers, and schools are our only safe havens. I need your help. There have been times when coaches have helped me; but you have to do it in a better way. There are some positive things in your proposals but don't close our schools. Let us know what we have to do to keep this school open, you let us know ok? Last of all, I would've fallen through the cracks because I was a foster child. I had support from people who care. I'm a local man that goes to college because of you guys. I have homework Dr. Duron. Will you all go home tonight and will you remember that we are all willing to do whatever it takes to keep this school open? You have a multitude of people who are willing to help you keep this school open. Whatever we need to do, whatever it means, when it comes down to what's right and what's wrong, it's like when you look your son in the eye...

Speaker 42: Doris P. Vicks

Sam Houston is the pride of the East Side. No family with children wants to buy a house in our community without a HS in the East Side. So you are shutting down the East Side when you close SH. They are not going to be transporting the children...that is outrageously ridiculous. I'm a tax payer and why would I want to pay? I will be walking my way to Washington. That's not going to go. Put some color in that Board besides token people. We're going to fight this fight.

Speaker 43: Fernando Velazquez

I come in friendship. Our communities are organizing together for a common plan. We had Andrew Rodriguez, AROD. He took Burbank from mediocre Burbank to recognized nationally. We worked together for a common solution. After we made more noise our Principal was removed and demoted. At the same time SH instead of finding someone within their community, they took that Principal from a Middle School, (Ms. Lopez) Why would they take a man and then take a Principal which supposedly has a great reputation and put them in our school? You thought that one community was going to go against another community, but that didn't happen did it Dr. Duron? There was not a 7 million dollar deficit there was a 1.7 million dollar surplus (8.7 mil dollar surplus?) and that happened without closing any schools down. The proof is in the pudding. We are sitting on the surplus. These closures don't have to be that drastic. Stop trying to close our communities.

Speaker 44: Dr. Valdez (Pediatrician)

I want to say one thing and one thing only. Vote it down and turn it around! This is the pride of the East Side. You've seen the solidarity established here. We have a nursing school right in our back yard. Ladies and gentleman it's not fair. It's a biased situation. 13 years ago in this community we had in place the mentoring program that Ft. Sam Houston had. Everyone was coming to the East Side. We can do it again. Vote this plan down, turn it around. This community is serving the pride of the East Side...we can keep the pride of the East Side...Ft. Sam Houston is not closing so neither should SH

Speaker 45:

Why is Sam Houston cut in every proposal? Well we're going to give you hell. Take advantage of Brack coming to the East Side. It will have a ripple effect and what are you guys going to be doing? Relaxing? Do you think you're that powerful? A lot of you are going to be asking for bond money and we're not going to give it to you. Why are you closing this school? Do you think that our kids can't learn? Give us a chance. If you've made your decision already, let us know. Don't be playing us, we're nobody's fool.

Speaker 46: Walter Edwards

This don't make no sense. Sam Houston is the blood of the East Side. Sam Houston taught me a lot; not to forget where I came from. I read that SH is low performing. Sam Houston is not the only one. We have our own domain here. We voted to come up with a plan to expand all of our schools. SH is the

perfect size. Who's using their fist to punch SH? The East Side is going to be a ghost town. We must have unity. It's simple to have unity. You're not looking at the manual very careful.

**Speaker 47: Brian C. Dillard, 2001 Graduate
Proposal 1**

I was raised on Lamar Street. One thing that I've noticed; there's never been a meeting. I hear complaints; lowest performing school in grades, in attendance. I'm here to help the East Side. It's going to take the community. The community forgot about the East Side. Why do I have to provide these notes? I am not for plan 2 or 3. I am for plan 1. There is a lot for sale on Eucless street behind St. Phillips. The new school should be at 300 Eucless Street. Where were you all when I graduated in 2001? Where was the community ma'am?

Speaker 48: Bernadette (??)

Plans drafted by a community based committee; but I don't see any black faces on the Committee. Ft. Sam is coming but they are not going to live here because they are not going to want to live here if there isn't a high school here. Don't repurpose. Re-think.

Speaker 49: Marilyn (??)

Our children are only comfortable in their own community. They will not be comfortable wherever you bus them. How do you think they will be able to accomplish this thing about early at the bus stop? About riding back in the dark? When will these children be able to work and do their homework? We're going to think twice about board considerations.

Speaker 50: Terry Brooks

1976 graduate from SH. I am appalled that you want to close the school that gave me a foundation. We have people like my mother who was an administrator of this district. We're going to fight this. We're not going to allow you to close this school...

Speaker 51: Richard Fisher

I don't agree with any of your options. I think that you need to give the NAACP a response to their questions.

Speaker 52: Diamond Moss, Proud Senior

I have been taught audience etiquette. Sit up. (Looking at Committee and Board) You have a back bone. I'm from Ft. Worth Texas and they told me to come to this school. I've been here since 2006, Ms. Heartache, my English teacher asked us to write an essay (he read essay) Closing Sam Houston is the most enormous mistake SAISD will ever make. Could you remove your hands from your face, that's rude. (Addressing Dr. Duron) Don't destroy the legacy that I'm planning to leave behind.

Speaker 53 Student (Senior)

I don't agree with any of the plans. Give us a chance. We've fallen. You can only get up if you've fallen.

Speaker 54: Kim Ballinger

You need to build a better mouse trap. Numbers do not impress me. Tonight we are here because of the unjust idea to close SH. It's time for everyone to roll up your sleeves to figure out how to keep every school open. I attended Judson that had 5,000 students. My intuition was true. My teacher had 35 students. Take the time to restructure your proposal. We need to take on the spirit of the Kennedy's. I live on the East Side by choice.

Speaker 55: Margaret Robinson

Former Bowden Principal; retired from Stewart...etc...I am very very interested in all of SAISD schools. The plans presented tonight do need to be revisited. They are not acceptable to the people of t his community. Instead of hiring a firm we should have used billboards, etc. Let me congratulate the new Principal because I've heard many good things about him already. There are retired teachers who will come back to tutor, just ask. Use the communication of SAISD to get the word out. Let's make sure that our plans meet the needs of the future.

Speaker 56: Renee Joy McGhee

I graduated in 1985. I have 2 businesses. The new SAISD without our East Side schools...it didn't include us...how can I hear about what you want...it didn't include us. My heart is angry and saddened. Where was our chance? I tell you there was none. We have to ensure that our school and our youth can be successful and have developed curriculum in our classrooms. Are our children failing us or are we failing them? I've heard lot of solutions. We're willing to do whatever it takes. We have a voice in this situation. #1 - We demand that our School Board vote against anything that leaves this East Side school out. #2 - I say no to closing down our East side.

Speaker 57: Brooksie Smith

Your mind's made up so why am I standing here? Our community is going to beg, but your mind is made up. There is nothing we can do. They can walk, talk and cry. What is it going to take?
(Hard to hear...too much rumbling)

Speaker 58: Billy McGhee-Wilson

I play football, golf, band, robotics, soccer. I had never been to a school where they care as much as they do here. Coaches take us home, buy us food, gave us a barbecue, parents cooked us pasta. I've made my point. They care enough about us to go out of their way to support us; and we work hard to support them back and it's really hard to do all these things to go home do our homework if I have to get bused to a school way across town, I won't be able to do my work...I won't be able to do my homework.

Speaker 59: Marvet Bailey? (Fine Arts Coalition)

Maybe you need to get those people to help you get these proposals. FACT, we lost students because we now have Wagner: And someone in the district had to give permission to do that. FACT, Principal husband was on TV as a child molester. What are you thinking? How can our kids focus on their school work now?

Speaker 60: Ed Giles

1985 West Point Graduate. I'm going to give you, the Board, pictures of Wheatley and Sam Houston. Pictures are worth 1000 words. I want to commit to the students here at Sam Houston. Do not close any schools.

Speaker 61: Juanita Caldwell

Your presentation is too long and this is supposed to be about the constituents. You saw how many people here don't want SH to close; and you will still keep to the rote? It's not about you, but you kept to the rote. There will be a very big hole if you eliminate Sam Houston High. This hole doesn't make any sense. Everything I'm hearing is negative. Something about a half way house, etc...we need to become positive. I say no, no, and no.

Speaker 62: Othelia L. Rainey

This is our community. If you take away our school we have nothing. We have Wal-Mart, that's nothing. I work at Wal-Mart. We had to get computers from Wal-Mart. The East Side don't get nothing. There's a big old field over here. Why aren't you building here in the East Side where we belong?

Speaker 63:

I recently came back from Missouri. I am hurt and overwhelmed. How dare you come here and say this to this community. There are a lot of strugglings. We need boldness here. We need leaders. Ain't nobody here that gives a damn about us? How dare you want to close our schools. You're trying to destroy these kids. It ain't about you. God's not going to bless you.

Speaker 64: Ms. Orta

My daughter is a senior at Fox Tech H.S. I am totally confused. I want to know why Tech is not on the table. Please listen to us. We don't want a Magnet program.

My daughter does not have a dual credit class and you talk about dual credit? You need to assure our seniors that our seniors are not being cheated out of this dual program. Mr. Duron, I demand compassion at Fox Tech. Cora said, "Tell you daughter to try and get students to be in that program. That is not my daughter's job. It's her job. We are not college ready.

Speaker 65: Oscar Vicks

I have been enlightened tonight. I really do hope that you will be responsible for the other principals too, and I will be here to support them. Who picked the Principals? I know that it's time to do the right things around here. Who knew about these proposals more than 10 days ago? When you bring that bond issue around here we're going to do the same thing. Only 2-3 people knew about all of this. How would you feel if the whole committee was black? At some point and time we have one constitution, one 'we the people', 'one flag for all people', and one education. These children are going to be our doctors and our nurses. I'm going to tell you, if you don't go to the drawing board, you ain't coming to this neighborhood for nothing.

Speaker 66: Tom Gaffney, 1952 Graduate

Mr. Gaffney spoke several languages and said after each phrase, "a teacher taught me that."

I owe all that I am to my mama and my teachers. I am 76 years old. I had to work after school in Jr. High School and High School but we went to school everyday and we went to church.

I spent 26 years in the SAISD School Board. The last 10 years I've been tutoring and mentoring. I would like to give Mr. Howard some papers that I just got a hold of. These papers show that the school that you are talking about building would only sit on 7 acres (?) Now don't tell me that this is news to you. How do you think that this is going to be an adequate school for our children? Mr. Howard, you take these papers and study them. What the School Board is proposing does not make any sense. Why are you doing this? Study the papers and let me know.